

Fire Weather Annual Report for 2007

WFO Glasgow

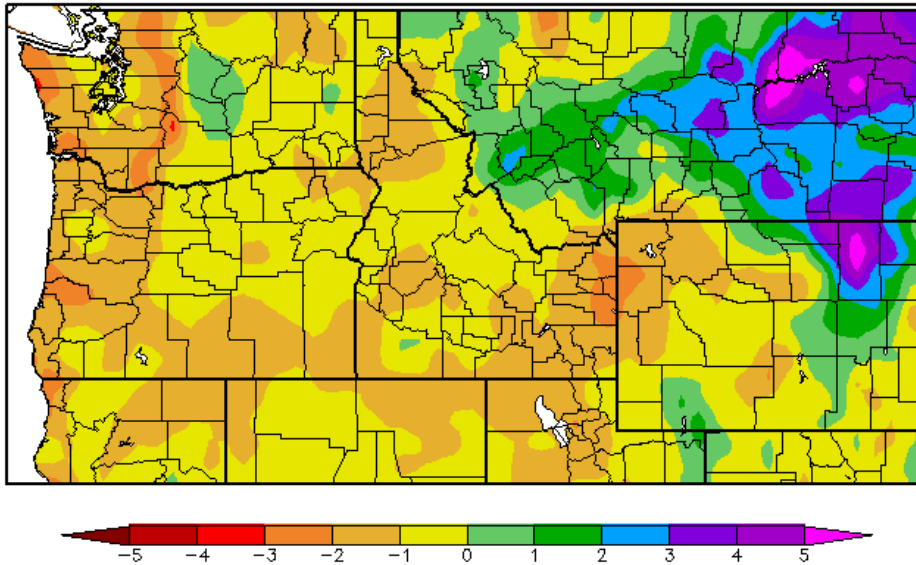


Narrative

2007 was a quiet fire season across Northeast Montana. May and June brought well above normal precipitation to the region (graphic 1). This wet spring was enough to keep a potential significant fire season at bay as July and August brought above normal temperatures with below normal precipitation (graphic 2). Workload was remarkable however, as a more aggressive than usual prescribed burn plans were implemented by the land management agencies. In 2007, fire weather program manager Jennifer Zeltwanger was promoted to a new position at another office. WCM Tanja Fransen took over in the interim until the new Fire Weather Program Manager, Patrick Gilchrist, arrived in May.

Graphic 1

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
5/1/2007 – 5/31/2007

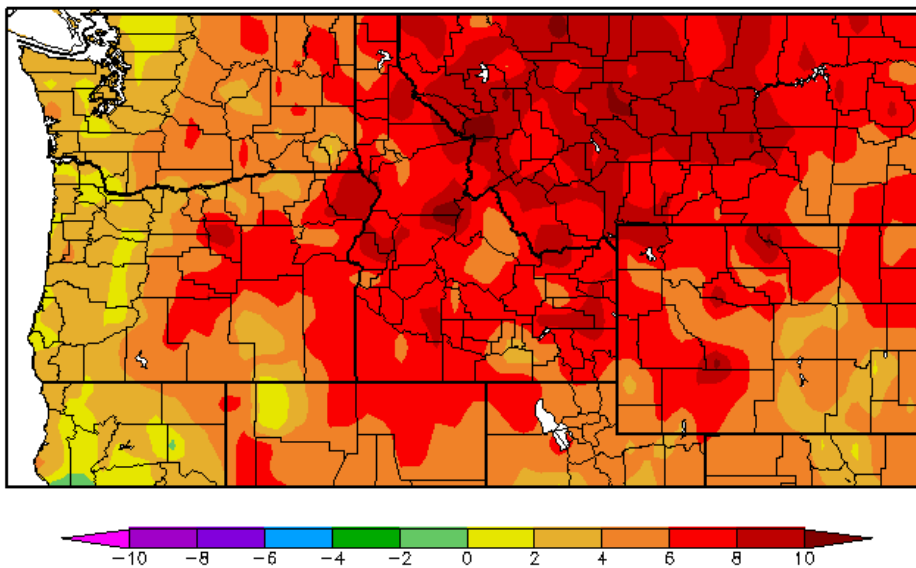


Generated 8/3/2007 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Graphic 2

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
7/1/2007 – 7/31/2007



Generated 12/11/2007 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

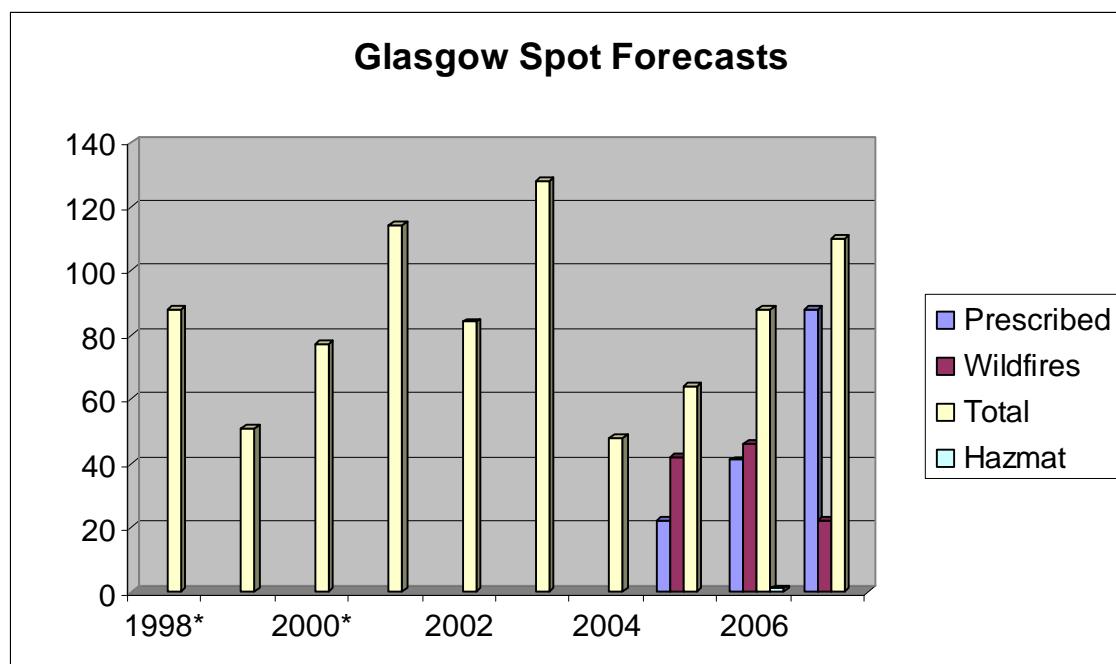
General Forecasts

Fire Weather Planning Forecasts were issued from April 2nd to November 24th. Twice a day forecasts were issued from July 2nd to September 16th. Forecasts for the National Fire Danger Rating System were issued July 2nd through October 12th.

Spot Forecasts

110 spot forecasts were completed this year. While not a record, 2007 proved to be a busy fire weather year for WFO Glasgow. Spots were heavily weighted in the prescribed burn category, with wildfire spots less than half that of the significant 2006 season.

Table 1.



* 1998-2000 spots in Northeast Montana done by WFO Billings

2007 WFO GGW Spot forecasts

Prescribed Burns.....88

Wildland Fire Use.....0

Wildfires.....22

Hazardous Spills/
Search and Rescue.....0

Total.....110

Customer Weather Briefings

For the first time an Internet Customer Weather briefing was provided jointly by the Glasgow, Billings and Great Falls WFOs. The briefings began July 16th, and continued through September 5th.

With a slower than normal fire season, participation of northeastern Montana land agency partners was minimal, mostly consisting of a federal agency with shared responsibility in another CWA. Most of the users were from the WFO Billings and WFO Great Falls CWA. There is ongoing discussion as to how to utilize this in the coming year.

WFO Glasgow did give several verbal “spot like” briefings to local fire departments when they were dealing with a wildland fire.

WFO Glasgow also participated in two fire restrictions calls with the BLM offices in Lewistown and Miles City. These briefings were to local, state and federal land management agencies, and county fire wardens, and county commissioners to decide on needed fire restrictions for the coming week. WFO Glasgow and WFO Great Falls alternated doing the briefings each Tuesday morning. WFO Glasgow did all the briefings for the Miles City BLM calls, although WFO Billings did listen in on the calls to hear feedback from their counties.

Training/Meetings/Outreach

In March, the Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS) fire crew visited NWS Glasgow and had a presentation on fire weather products and services, a tour of the NWS website, and also received a tour of the office. The seasonal fire crew had a lot of questions about weather. This was in preparation for their aggressive prescribed burn planning they had for the season. The fire management officer for the refuge intends to bring his crew each year to tour the office before their burn season begins.

In April, four staff members traveled to Zortman to visit with the BLM fire crew that was working on prescribed burns which included some slash piles. This fire crew also worked on several prescribed burns in the Whitewater area.

Acting Fire Weather Program Manager/WCM Tanja Fransen and MIC Steve Apfel attended a pre-season fire weather meeting with the Lewistown BLM, Lewistown DNRC and local volunteer fire departments in Malta. The same presentation given to the USFWS crew was given at this meeting.

In May, Tanja Fransen WFO GGW WCM, Patrick Gilchrist Fire Weather Program Manager WFO GGW and Dan Borsum Fire Weather Program Manager WFO BYZ attended the Eastern Zone Incident Commander Workshop at the Miles City BLM on May 10th. Tanja Fransen gave the same presentation given at the USFWS tour and Malta meeting.

MIC Steven Apfel and Patrick Gilchrist also attended the Northern Rockies AOP meeting in Missoula October 10th.

A round of customer meetings is tentatively planned for early 2008.

Red Flag Warnings/Fire Weather Watches

Total Number of **Red Flag Warnings** Issued in 2005: **20**

Verified Red Flag Warnings.....16

Non-Verified Red Flag Warnings.....4

Red Flag Events Not Warned (Missed Events).....2

Average Lead Time: **6.7 Hours**

Breakdown:

Synoptic (Wind, RH).....10

Non-Synoptic (Thunderstorms).....8

Total Number of **Fire Weather Watches** Issued in 2005: **13**

Verified Fire Weather Watches.....12

Non-Verified Fire Weather Watches.....1

Breakdown:

Synoptic (Wind, RH).....10

Non-Synoptic (Thunderstorms).....8

Verified Red Flag Warnings Not Preceded by a Watch.....4

Warning statistics:

Synoptic (Wind, RH).....**POD 0.80....FAR 0.33....CSI ...0.57**

Non-Synoptic (Thunderstorms)....**POD 1.00....FAR 0.00....CSI...1.00**

Total Synoptic/Non-Synoptic.....**POD 0.89....FAR 0.20....CSI...0.73**

Table 2

2007 Red Flag Warning Totals			
Total # of Warnings	20	POD	0.89
Total # of Events	18	FAR	0.20
Verified Warnings	16	CSI	0.73
Missed Warnings	2	ALT	
Unverified		(Min)	403.83
Warnings	4	ALT	
		(Hrs)	6.73
		Total	
Watches issued	13	Min	7269
Verified Watches	12		
Warnings Preceded by			
Watches	12		

2007 Red Flag Warning Synoptic Totals

Total # of Warnings	12	POD	0.80
Total # of Events	10	FAR	0.33
Verified Warnings	8	CSI	0.57
		ALT	
Missed Warnings	2	(Min)	349.00
Unverified		ALT	
Warnings	4	(Hrs)	5.82
		Total	
Watches Issued	5	Min	3490
Warnings Preceded by			
Watches	4		

2007 Red Flag Warning Dry T-Storm Totals

Total # of Warnings	8	POD	1.00
Total # of Events	8	FAR	0.00
Verified Warnings	8	CSI	1.00
		ALT	
Missed Warnings	0	(Min)	472.38
Unverified		ALT	
Warnings	0	(Hrs)	7.87
		Total	
Watches Issued	8	Min	3779
Warnings Preceded by			
Watches	8		

IMET Report

No IMETs were assigned in the WFO Glasgow CWA during 2007.

WFO GGW IMET Patrick Gilchrist had 2 separate dispatches to 2 different fires for a total of 21 days (including travel).

July 3rd through July 8th 2007 Patrick was assigned to the Citadel Fire on the Shoshone National Forest southwest of Cody Wyoming. This fire was managed by the RMA Fire Use Management Team and was contained at 2,004 acres.

August 1st through August 15th 2007 Patrick was on the Skyland Fire on the Helena National Forest near Marias Pass Montana. The fire was managed by Pacific Northwest Team 3 IMT and burned 45,760 acres.